

## **Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 93**

### **RESOLUTION CHAPTER 135**

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 93—Relative to California Hindu American Awareness and Appreciation Month.

[Filed with Secretary of State August 28, 2014.]

#### **LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST**

SCR 93, Corbett. California Hindu American Awareness and Appreciation Month.

This measure would designate the month of October 2014 as California Hindu American Awareness and Appreciation Month. The measure would also recognize and acknowledge the significant contributions made by Californians of Hindu heritage to our state. By adoption of this resolution, the Legislature seeks to increase awareness and understanding of the Hindu American community.

WHEREAS, California and the nation have been influenced by the extraordinary cultural, ethnic, linguistic, and religious diversity of its residents; and

WHEREAS, There is an estimated one billion Hindus worldwide, and more than 2 million Hindu Americans live across the nation; and

WHEREAS, California is home to the largest Hindu American population in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Hindu Americans in California represent diverse ethnic backgrounds, including individuals of Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Malaysian, Indonesian, Afghani, Nepali, Bhutanese, Sri Lankan, Fijian, Caribbean, and European descent; and

WHEREAS, California and our nation have greatly benefited from Hindu Americans, especially through the Vedanta philosophy, Ayurvedic medicine, classical Indian art, dance, music, meditation, literature, and community service; and

WHEREAS, The United States was officially introduced to Hinduism by Swami Vivekananda in 1893 at the World’s Parliament of Religions in Chicago, and in 1900 he founded the Vedanta Society in San Francisco, California; and

WHEREAS, The first Hindu temple in the United States was built in San Francisco, California, and at the dedication of the temple on January 7, 1906, it was proclaimed to be the “First Hindu Temple in the Whole Western World”; and

WHEREAS, There are now over 120 Hindu temples, religious centers, and cultural centers throughout California, and the greater bay area is home to over 40 of those temples and centers; and

WHEREAS, Hindu Americans have greatly enriched California's higher education university systems by teaching numerous students, especially in the academic fields of astrophysics, computer science, engineering, law, planetary science, psychology, and neurosciences; and

WHEREAS, Hindu Americans share the entrepreneurial spirit of America and contribute to California's economic vitality, having been pioneers and leaders in Silicon Valley and founded several of its early startups; and

WHEREAS, Hindu Americans have also contributed to many of California's economic sectors and particularly excelled in the areas of business, information technology, medicine, and science; and

WHEREAS, California Hindu temples, organizations, and individuals actively engage in seva, a Sanskrit word for selfless service, towards their fellow human beings through charity, public service, and the provision of free medical and legal services; and

WHEREAS, Hindu Americans in cities throughout California celebrate numerous holidays and festivals, such as Diwali, which celebrates the victory of good over evil and knowledge over ignorance; and

WHEREAS, Hindu Americans promote the ideals of tolerance, pluralism, and religious freedom, which are inherent to their beliefs and respect the diversity of all faiths; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring,* That the Legislature hereby designates the month of October 2014 as California Hindu American Awareness and Appreciation Month; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Legislature recognizes and acknowledges the significant contributions made by Californians of Hindu heritage to our state, and by adoption of this resolution, seeks to increase awareness and understanding of the Hindu American community; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.